

## **Program Notice** FGIS-PN-97-8 3/25/97

### **QUALIFYING OFFICIAL COMMERCIAL INSPECTION SERVICE CERTIFICATES**

#### **1. PURPOSE**

This program notice removes the requirement to include a special statement on Official Commercial Inspection Service (OCIS) certificates, which describes the use of non-Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) approved equipment or modified sampling/inspection procedures.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

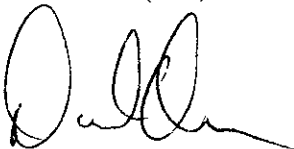
FGIS Program Directive 918.55, "Official Commercial Inspection Services," requires a special statement on OCIS certificates that describes any non-FGIS approved equipment or modified sampling or inspection procedures used in performing the service. FGIS believes that requiring this information on OCIS certificates is redundant and unnecessary because OCIS service contracts include detailed descriptions of non-approved equipment and modified procedures. These contracts are a matter of record, available to all interested parties. Consequently, showing the same information on all OCIS certificates is an unnecessary burden on official personnel and impugns the integrity of OCIS certificates. Furthermore, OCIS certificates are already qualified by virtue of their distinctive heading and their unique color: green for sample-lot inspections and blue for submitted sample inspections.

#### **3. POLICY**

Effective immediately, a special statement describing the use of any non-FGIS approved equipment or modified sampling/inspection procedures need not be shown on OCIS certificates, unless requested by the applicant for inspection or by another interested party.

#### **4. QUESTIONS**

Direct any questions regarding this policy change to the Standards and Procedures Branch at (202) 720-0252.



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